WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Commodity Credit Corporation
Office of Supply
425 Wilson Building
Dallas 1, Texas

Approximate Time
First Part 5 Minutes
Second Part 3½ Minutes
May 14, 1945
No. 20

1. MUSIC: UP AND UNDER

2. ANNOUNCER: Radio Station _____ presents...FOOD FRONT HEADLINES...a behind-the-scene story of how our food moves from farms to battle lines...from ships to Allied supply depots...from grocery shelves to civilian tables...and here ready to help us lift off the top of our national sugar bowl to see what's inside is _____, District Representative of the War Food Administration.

3. DIST. REP: Thanks, _____. Looks as though we're going to have less sugar this year. Our domestic reserves are almost down to rock bottom. World stocks are too. By the end of the year they'll be reduced to a bare three million tons...which is as far as they can drop for efficient operation of the world's sugar economy.

4. ANNOUNCER: At the first of the year, the carry-over of world sugar stocks totaled more than 4 million tons. Last year the carry-over was 5½ million tons and in 1943 it was 6½ million tons...so you can see, we've been using more sugar than we produced in those years, which means we had to dip heavily into reserves.

5. DIST. REP: Since we don't have any reserve stocks to call on, we'll have to depend on current sugar production, which is a hundred thousand tons less than last year. Sugar cane and sugar beet farmers here in the United States expect to produce nearly two million tons, but any increase in their production will not amount to much, since we produce only one-fourth of our total supply in the states.

6. ANNOUNCER: The other three-fourths comes from Cuba, Puerto Rico and Hawaii. We expect to get nearly a million tons of sugar from Puerto Rico this year, which is an increase over last year's shipments to the United States, but two hundred thousand tons less than we expected to get at the beginning of the year.

7. DIST. REP: A five-week strike in Puerto Rico delayed cutting and grinding, and as a result some sugar was lost through drying. This accounts for the cut in the expected supplies.

8. ANNOUNCER: Also, the Cuban crop is 450 thousand tons short...and 300 thousand tons less than was estimated January 1. A drought in Cuba and a hurricane in the western part of the island affected the supply. In addition, there was no hold-over cane and consequently no two-year growth on which to rely for a part of the Cuban supply.

9. DIST. REP: Our other principal source of sugar...Hawaii...will supply us with 800 thousand tons...the same as last year. To keep this large volume of sugar production flowing for our military and civilian needs, the War Food Administration will pay Hawaiian sugar farmers 55 cents, in addition to the stabilized market price on every 100 pounds of raw sugar they produce in 1945. This payment will offset higher production costs and encourage the farmers to plant more sugar cane.

10. ANNOUNCER: Not only have supplies been reduced in those areas on which we now depend for sugar, but some sources have been cut off entirely by the war. In peace time, the Philippines shipped us on the average of a million tons of sugar a year. And, although, a part of the Philippines have been liberated, we can't expect to get any sugar from them until 1946...and maybe not then.

11. DIST. REP: You see, the Japs converted some of the refineries to production of war materials...and what they couldn't use, they blew up. Cane fields, not ruined by the war...have been turned into rice paddies and cotton fields, and it'll take more than a year to get them back into sugar cane.

12. ANNOUNCER: We must remember, too, that other countries get their sugar from the same place we get ours. Before the war, Java provided 2 million tons annually to Britain and other importing nations, but today all of the United Nations must depend on the Caribbean area for their imported supplies of sugar.

13. DIST. REP: Also liberated countries are depending on these same producing areas. However, any reduction in our sugar supply caused by the little amount they'll import will hardly be a sacrifice on our part. But if it were, the sacrifice would be small in comparison with the contribution it will make to the under-nourished, if not actually starving, peoples of liberated countries.

14. ANNOUNCER: However, let me emphasize that, even if we shipped no sugar to liberated areas, we couldn't continue to use sugar at last year's rate...or even at the rate of the first three months this year. If we did, we'd exhaust the world's sugar supplies.

15. DIST. REP: You bet we would! In fact, we've already used more sugar since January 1 than we were allotted. What's more the first three months are normally low periods of demand. It's the two middle quarters...from April through September...when we use the most sugar...because of home and commercial canning needs and the soft drinks season.

16. ANNOUNCER: Then, these are the facts we must face...sugar reserves are at rock bottom. World sugar production is below normal. More countries than ever are depending on the same producing areas for their sugar. On the other hand, demand for sugar continues to rise. Here at home, civilians with higher incomes can afford more sugar and confections made out of sugar. Also, our military requirements for sugar have increased. We've got more men overseas and more prisoners of war to feed. Our armed forces will need 100 thousand tons more sugar than they used last year.

17. DIST. REP: But despite all of these reductions and increased demands... American civilians still hold the lion's share of the world's sugar...one half of it, to be exact. However, we must stretch our supplies. That's why only one sugar stamp will be good between now and September 1. We'll have to make the five pounds we get with sugar stamp No. 36 last us four months.

18. ANNOUNCER: But even at this rate, we civilians will still get 15 pounds of sugar a year per person. Last year we got 20 pounds per person. However, when we include all the sugar civilians get in such items as bakery products, home and commercial canned goods, soft drinks, candy and other products, we'll average more than 72 pounds per person this year.

19. DIST. REP: Housewives are not the only ones who took a cut in sugar rations. So did hotels, schools, restaurants and other institutional users. The army and navy won't get as much sugar as they wanted...and on July 1, when the next allotment for industrial users is made, their supplies will be reduced too. We'll all share alike in these limited sugar supplies.

20. ANNOUNCER: And that's all on sugar, Listen next _____ to FOOD FRONT HEADLINES...presented as a public service feature by Radio Station _____ in cooperation with the War Food Administration to bring you inside facts from authoritative sources about what's happening on the agriculture firing line.

NOTE TO DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE: IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES, CUT CUE NO. 20 AND CONTINUE WITH CUE NO. 21.

21. ANNOUNCER: Besides sugar, civilians are also wondering about potatoes... which are sometimes plentiful and sometimes scarce.

22. DIST. REP: Here are several facts that'll help explain the potato situation. We all know potatoes are a basic vegetable in our diets and because of this, farmers have always had a steady market for them. For example, before the war, farmers usually raised about 379 million bushels of potatoes a year. We ate about 130 pounds per person.

23. ANNOUNCER: But in 1943, when farmers raised the biggest crop in history and consumers could buy all they wanted...they averaged only a little over 133 pounds.

24. DIST. REP: Exactly. So, in 1944 farmers just didn't plant as many potatoes, because they weren't sure they could sell them. It's one thing to say the market for potatoes is established and another thing to fill demands year after year.

25. ANNOUNCER: Besides the influence of demands, the potato crop depends pretty much on the whims of the weather, because it affects both production and distribution. Dry weather, wet weather, too much sun or a blight will upset the nation's potato basket.

26. DIST. REP: Then too, these factors never affect the whole country equally... so we may have a potato famine in the west and a potato feast in the east or vice versa.

27. ANNOUNCER: Sometimes when this happens...especially in wartime...there are not enough refrigerator cars or locomotives to move potatoes into the shortage areas.

28. DIST. REP: That's the case right now in Maine, as you know. Maine farmers raised about 52 thousand cars of potatoes last year. To ship these spuds into deficit areas, 350 cars would have had to move out of Maine every day from January through May.

29. ANNOUNCER: And the bottleneck was that only one railroad led out of Maine into this part of the country. The biggest snows in history blanketed New England and New York State last winter and as a result traffic was halted for days at a time.

30. DIST. REP: Because of these storms and the shortage of refrigerated cars in general, an average of only 200 to 250 cars moved out of Maine each day. WFA did everything possible to get more cars. The railroads and other federal agencies did all they could, but still there just weren't enough cars to handle all the potatoes. WFA even tried to move the potatoes by boat from Portland, Maine...and about 1,000 cars were moved this way.

31. ANNOUNCER: Naturally, the better potatoes moved first. That's true in all producing areas. Now, only small and low grade potatoes are left, and they must be consumed locally because they can't stand the long haul. Even if they could, the markup on prices because of the long freight haul would be so much that the consumer wouldn't pay them for these inferior spuds.

32. DIST. REP: But potato supplies will be getting better as soon as the new crop starts to market. Already some new potatoes from Florida, and Southern Texas, Alabama and Louisiana, also California... are arriving at the corner grocery. A little later Georgia, North and South Carolina will be shipping their early crops.

33. ANNOUNCER: But these new potatoes have thin skins and are easily bruised, so they don't keep long, unless they're carefully handled and packed. For long hauls, they must be refrigerated or they'll spoil.

34. DIST. REP: It's a little too early to make any guesses about the producing areas which raise the kind of potatoes we see at the grocery all during the year. These spuds have thick skins. They keep well in storage for long periods and can stand long hauls across the country. Therefore, the armed forces will need most of these potatoes fo feed our soldiers on the Pacific front, regardless of how big a crop our farmers raise. With increased military requirements and higher civilian demand, potato supplies will likely continue tight in many areas throughout the year.

35. ANNOUNCER: And that's the latest headlines on sugar and potatoes. Listen next _____ to FOOD FRONT HEADLINES...presented as a public service feature by Radio Station _____ in cooperation with the War Food Administration to bring you inside facts from authoritative sources about what's happening on the agriculture firing line.

-30-